(c) the action taken to make them high yielding areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The normal economic age of tea bushes is 50 years, beyond which the productivity goes down. As per studies undertaken by the Tea Board, around 2,12,000 hectares of tea area have to be targeted for replantation/rejuvenation over the next 15 years. Government is examining ways and means of introducting a programme for massive replantation and rejuvenation of old tea bushes. The objective of this programme is to address the issue of ageing tea plantations which has resulted in a progressive reduction in yield and help in reviving the fortunes of the Indian tea industry in terms of increase in yield, improvement in quality and in overall reduction in cost of production. The detailed costing and modalities of funding such a large programme, including the setting up of a Special Purpose Tea Fund, is under consideration.

Three-phase implementation of reforms to help manufacturing sector

2287. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a suggestion has been received by Government for three-phase implementation of reforms to help manufacturing sector to achieve international competitiveness;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this calls for labour and tax reforms etc. and flexibility in the existing norms; and

(d) if so, action plan of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Flaws in data relating to exports and product classification

2288. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: